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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES



TED SCHWINDEN, GOVERNOR



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January 13, 1984

Lawrence W. Binfet, Mayor, Town of West Yellowstone, P.O. Box 579, W. Yellowstone, MT
Board of County Commissioners, Gallatin County Courthouse, Bozeman, MT
John Moss, City-Co. Planning Director, P. O. Box 640, Bozeman, MT
Emery Nelson, R.S. County Sanitarian, Courthouse, Rm. 3, Basement, Bozeman, MT
Clyde Seely, Chairman, W. Yellowstone Refuse Disposal Dist., S. of West Yellowstone
Harry Kringler, U.S. Forest Service, Federal Building, Bozeman, MT
John Drake, Forest Supervisor, Gallatin Nat'l. Forest Service, Bozeman, MT
Environmental Quality Council, State Capitol Bldg., Rm. 432, Helena, MT
Harold Chambers, State Library, Capitol Station, Helena, MT
Tom Ellerhoff, Environmental Sciences Div., DHES, Cogswell Bldg., Helena, MT

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Pursuant to the Administrative Rules of Montana, 16.2.604, the following Preliminary Environmental Review has been prepared by the Department of Health and Environmental Sciences concerning West Yellowstone/Hebgen Basin Solid Waste District, Transfer Station and Class III landfill.

The purpose of the Preliminary Environmental Review is to inform all interested governmental agencies, public groups or individuals of the proposed action and to determine whether or not the action may have a significant effect on the human environment. This Preliminary Environmental Review will be circulated for a period of fifteen (15) days at which time a decision will be made as to our future action.

If you care to comment on this proposed action, please do so within the allotted time.

Sincerely,

JOHN C. GEACH
Solid Waste Management Bureau
Telephone: (406) 444-2821

JCG:vc
Encls.



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PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Division/Bureau Environmental Sciences Division/Solid Waste Management Bureau

Project or Application West Yellowstone Solid Waste Transfer Station

Description of Project The West Yellowstone/Hebgen Basin Refuse Disposal District
is currently operating the West Yellowstone Solid Waste Transfer Station and Class III
landfill. These facilities are located on the Town of West Yellowstone's Class III
landfill. The West Yellowstone/Hebgen Basin refuse district has submitted solid
waste management system license applications for this transfer station and the
Class III landfill. This PER is being issued in conjunction with the review of
these applications. See attached map for location.

POTENTIAL IMPACT ON PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

	Major	Moderate	Minor	None	Unknown	Comments on Attached Pages
1. Terrestrial & aquatic life and habitats				X		
2. Water quality, quantity and distribution			X			X
3. Geology & soil quality, stability and moisture			X			X
4. Vegetation cover, quant- ity and quality			X			X
5. Aesthetics			X			X
6. Air quality				X		
7. Unique, endangered, fragile, or limited environmental resources				X		
8. Demands on environmen- tal resources of land, water, air & energy				X		
9. Historical and archaeo- logical sites				X		

POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

	Major	Moderate	Minor	None	Unknown	Comments on Attached Pages
1. Social structures and mores .				X		
2. Cultural uniqueness and diversity				X		
3. Local and state tax base & tax revenue				X		
4. Agricultural or industrial production				X		
5. Human health				X		
6. Quantity and distribution of community and personal income				X		
7. Access to and quality of recreational and wilderness activities			X			X
8. Quantity and distribution of employment				X		
9. Distribution and density of population and housing				X		
10. Demands for government services			X			X
11. Industrial & commercial activity				X		
12. Demands for energy			X			X
13. Locally adopted environmental plans & goals				X		
14. Transportation networks & traffic flows			X			X

Other groups or agencies contacted or which may have overlapping jurisdiction _____

Individuals or groups contributing to this PER. _____

Recommendation concerning preparation of EIS _____

PER Prepared by: _____

Date: JOHN C. GEACH

WEST YELLOWSTONE PER

Potential Impact on Physical Environment

2. Water quality, quantity and distribution

Group III wastes consisting of materials such as demolition wastes, wood, brush, trees, tires, concrete, and scrap metal will be buried in the Class III landfill portion of the transfer station site. These materials should not pose a pollution potential to the area's groundwater.

Group II (household refuse) which had been buried at this site in previous years has affected the groundwater quality. Nine (9) ground water monitoring wells have been installed to monitor the groundwater in the vicinity of this site. These monitoring wells will be used to continue to monitor the quality of the groundwater for any changes resulting from the old Class II site or the new Class III site.

3. Geology and soil quality, stability and moisture

Normal landfill operations modify the soil's moisture and stability within the landfill site. Some minor settling may occur over completed fill areas. However, with proper grading and re-dressing of these areas, no serious or long term settling problems should result.

4. Vegetation cover, quantity and quality

The area's native vegetative cover will be disturbed by transfer station construction and landfilling operations. However, with proper contouring, grading and the application of top soil; the transfer station area and filled portions of the landfill can be replanted with either native plant and tree species or other hybrid species that will be compatible with the surrounding terrain.

5. Aesthetics

The aesthetics of the area have been altered by the construction of the transfer station and the ongoing landfill operation. The aesthetic impact of the landfill should be relatively short term since the completed portions of the site can be reclaimed to blend with the natural surroundings.

The transfer station will affect the aesthetics of the area on a more long term basis. However, with proper landscaping and operation this facility should not seriously degrade the aesthetics of the area.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

7. Access to and quality of recreational and wilderness activities

This solid waste transfer and disposal facility will remove 10 acres of land from recreational wilderness status or use. However, given the size and location of the property in respect to the town of West Yellowstone, this impact should be negligible.

10. Demands for governmental services



Governmental services will be required on the local and state level for inspectional and administrative service associated with the issuance of solid waste management system licenses for this transfer station and Class III landfill.

12. Demands for energy

Diesel, gasoline and other petroleum products will be consumed in the operation of this refuse transfer and disposal facility.

14. Transportation networks and traffic flows

Private vehicles and large commercial refuse hauling trucks will be traveling along the roads to the transfer station/landfill site. However, since this location has always been used for the disposal of the area's entire waste stream, very little increase in traffic flow is anticipated.





